

Remarks:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 14-21 and 24-44 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ashikawa (2000-165391) in view of Ohta (U.S. 6122083).

Applicants have withdrawn claims 14-21 and 24-44.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 22 and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner and have so amended claims 22 and 23. Consequently, applicants submit that claims 22 and 23 should now be allowable over the cited references.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the current claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

A two-month extension is hereby requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2421.

Sincerely,



Alexander S.
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